

ABSTRACT

A system for and method of allocating a resource to a service request is described. In one embodiment, the service request represents a request for a category of service selected from amongst a plurality of possible categories. A policy selected from a plurality of possible policies is selected responsive to the selected category of service. A resource is allocated to the request through application of the selected policy to one or more resources which are candidates for allocating to the request. In a second embodiment, one or more resources which are candidates for allocating to the request are determining using a hierarchical arrangement of data structures, the hierarchical arrangement having one or more levels. One of the candidate resources is selected and allocated to the request. In a third embodiment, one or more resources which are candidates for allocating to the request are specified. Loading information for each of the candidate resources is accessed in parallel. One of the candidate resources is selected and allocated to the request responsive to the accessed loading information.